

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,  
As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Coverage should be about issues, not campaign strategies. If a candidate is elusive, or unfair, I think it is the job of the press to point out the facts - this means checking those facts before reporting the candidates "story!" Please create meaningful airtime, and encourage serious reporting, even if it isn't "sensational." The American people deserve it.

Sincerely,

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